

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee Addresses Defense Authorization Bill FY06

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces marked up its portion of H.R.1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Future Combat System

“The current plan for the future combat system is confused and unstable. We have been pouring money into a program that has yet to show mature technology or any semblance of stability,” commented **Subcommittee Ranking Member Neil Abercrombie (HI)**.

“With all the demands being currently placed on our Armed Forces, we must accept the fact that equipment for soldiers in the field should be a higher priority than systems a decade away from being fielded,” **Abercrombie** continued.

VXX Program

“The VXX is being run on a politically motivated schedule,” said **Subcommittee Ranking Member Neil Abercrombie (HI)**. “It is unthinkable that our military would buy a new aircraft without testing it and give it to our pilots to fly. Why in the world then would we do that with our President? This program needs to slow down and let its design catch up with reality.”

C-130 J

“This legislation takes a very important step in procuring nine C-130 J aircraft for the Air Force and four for the Marine Corps. The misguided DOD proposal to eliminate the program pre-judged the outcome of several of the Department’s pending studies,” noted **Rep. Mike McIntyre (NC)**. “Had we allowed that proposal to be carried in this bill, it would have spent millions to eliminate a vital part of the military’s transport capability.”

Information is not officially included in the final version of H.R.1815 until passed by the full House Armed Services Committee on May 18th.

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